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WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT JOHNSON STAGED THE SWEARING IN OF RICHARD M. HELMS AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WITH FANFARE TODAY AND SAID HE HAD YET TO MEET A "007" AGENT IN THE SUPER SPY AGENCY.

JOHNSON SPOKE AT A CEREMONY IN THE PACKED EAST ROOM WITH SEVERAL TOP RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON HAND INCLUDING FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, ROVING AMBASSADOR W. AVERELL HARRIMAN AND OTHERS. ALSO PRESENT WERE FORMER CIA HEAD ALLEN W. DULLES AND OUTGOING CIA DIRECTOR, ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN.

JOHNSON SAID THAT HELMS, 53, A CAREER MAN IN NATIONAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE DATING BACK TO WORLD WAR II, AND RABORN HAVE DONE THE KIND OF WORK THAT "DOES NOT ALLOW PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT."

HE SAID THE AGENCY IS "MORE OFTEN DAMNED THAN PRAISED" AND CIA OFFICIALS ARE "NOT PERMITTED TO SPEAK OUT IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE."

HE SAID HE NEVER READS A MORNING PAPER WITHOUT SEEING THEIR WORK "DISTORTED BY THEIR CRITICS."

THE PRESIDENT SAID IN HIS TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS OF DEALING CLOSELY WITH THE CIA HE HAD YET TO MEET A JAMES BOND "007" AGENT BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD MET IN THAT AGENCY SPECIALISTS IN ALL FIELDS WHO WERE "MOVED AND MOTIVATED BY THE HIGHEST PURPOSES."

PLAYING DOWN THE HUSH-HUSH MYSTERY ASPECTS OF THE AGENCY, JOHNSON SAID "THEIR MOST SIGNIFICANT TRIALS COME NOT IN SECRETS PASSED IN THE DARK BUT IN HOURS AND HOURS OF READING AND ANALYZING DOCUMENTS."

HE SAID RABORN AND HELMS "ARE UNSUNG JUST AS THEY ARE INVALUABLE" AND HE EXPRESSED HIS "ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE CONFIDENCE" IN THEM.

HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT RABORN WOULD BE GIVEN AN AWARD AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE CIA FOR 14 MONTHS AT A LATER DATE.

6/30--GE1119A